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**HOUSE APPROVES \$450,000 FOR CESA 11 AFTER
SCHOOL PROGRAMS
IN CHETEK, UNITY and WEBSTER, OBEY SAYS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Seventh District Congressmen Dave Obey (D-WI) announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved his request for \$450,000 in the FY08 Labor, Health, Education Appropriations Bill to help the CESA 11 After-School Program Consortium continue to provide after school services for the School Districts of Chetek, Unity and

Webster.

“In my view, we must all work to ensure that every child in Wisconsin is taught in a smaller class by a well-trained teacher with access to safe and up-to-date facilities. In addition, we must help modern families cope with the pressures of a two-working-parent lifestyle by providing kids with adult supervision during after-school hours” so they can get extra help with homework in a safe environment where their parents can know they are putting their time to good use,” said Obey, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Education.

“Research shows that when students have an alternative place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, but they also have a better education experience,” Obey added. “That’s why we pushed for more funding for after-school centers in the budget and why I asked for these funds to help continue these after school programs in Wisconsin.”

The federal funds are intended to help CESA 11 continue to provide a safe, healthy, enriching, supervised after-school environment for children in targeted schools. Since parental involvement is one of the keys to a student’s academic success, the program is also designed to strengthen the community - family - school partnership.

“There is nothing more important for the future of our children than a good education,” Obey noted. “Offering extra help with homework, advanced tutoring and an adult-supervised safe-haven free of trouble, these after-school programs should help provide students a solid foundation for long-term success and a constructive alternative to channel their energies throughout the school year and summer.”

The Labor, Health, Education Appropriations measure must now be approved by the Senate before it can be sent to the President. “But having these funds included in the House approved version means a major hurdle has been cleared,” Obey concluded.

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